

V. REMARKS

Entry of the Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 because the Amendment: a) places the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; b) does not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration because the Amendment amplifies issues previously discussed throughout prosecution; and c) places the application in better form for appeal, should an Appeal be necessary. The Amendment is necessary and was not earlier presented because it is made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. The amendments to the subject claims do not incorporate any new subject matter into the claims. Thus, entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishibashi (US 5,695,188) in view of Jaffe (US 6,569,018). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner cites new reference Jaffe (US 6,569,018) and rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishibashi (US 5,695,188) in view of Jaffe.

While the Applicant might agree that Jaffe discloses a slot machine with plural of displays, the newly amended claims clarify the differences between the claimed invention and the Ishibashi and Jaffe combination.

In order to overcome the final rejection, the Applicant amended claims 1 and 4 to clarify the difference between the prior art references by clarifying the scope of the claims and adding patentably distinguishable features of the present invention so as to specify the new and useful game machine as a whole. The game machine according to the present invention now includes the unique features of:

- 1) an optically transmissive electric display device provided in front of the variable display device; and

2) the combination of the front door body, the variable display means, the electric display device, the one or more stop buttons and the lower display means is adapted to be used with different games by replacing the image data stored in the image ROM.

The first feature above has been claimed in the previous claims 2 and 6 (before the current amendment). And the second feature above is a clarification of effect of the present invention supported in the specification from the date of filing (see page 8. line 10 to 14). So there is no new matter added.

The Examiner stated in the last office action that "*Additionally, Ishibashi's display is interpreted as an enhanced transmissive, or optically transmissive, display, because it is intended for indoor, (casino – low light viewing capability) use.*" (see page 4, line 4 to 6 from the bottom of the outstanding office action).

This interpretation is not only incorrect but also irreverent to the present invention since there is nothing to do with low light viewing capability for the optically transmissive display in the present invention. The optically transmissive display is provided in front of the variable display so that there is additional indication of the game according to the specification. (see page 7, paragraph 3; page 9, paragraph 2).

According to the present invention, the combination of the front door body, the variable display means, the electric display device, the one or more stop buttons and the lower display means is adapted to be used with different games by replacing the image data stored in the image ROM. It is a simple but effective solution to utilize the same hardware for different games by replacing the image data.

As a result, it is possible to reduce disadvantages such as dead stock and increased assembly steps which occur when a physical acrylic plate and a symbol cell sheet are used, whereby it is possible to provide gaming machines having superior cost performance. (See page 58 line 5 to 8 of the Specification)

None of the Ishibashi, Jaffe alone or combination thereof teaches or suggests the unique combination of the front door body, the variable display means, the electric display device, the one or more stop buttons and the lower display means that will altimetry reduce dead stock and assembly steps.

As the independent claims are now in allowable condition, the dependent claims should also be allowed accordingly.

In conclusion, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection fails to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness for at least the above reasons and that all claims are now in condition for allowance. More specifically, it is respectfully submitted that that none of the applied art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the features of claimed invention as amended and discussed above. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art could not combine the features of the applied art to arrive at the claimed invention because the applied art is devoid of all the features of the claimed invention. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claimed invention is allowable over the applied art.

Early and favorable indication of allowance is courteously solicited.

Claim 3 depends from claim 1 and includes all of the features of claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claim is allowable at least for the reason claim 1 is allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Claims 5 and 7-9 depend from claim 4 and include all of the features of claim 4. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason claim 4 is allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Claims 2 and 6 are canceled and, as a result, the rejection as applied thereto is now moot.

Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are believed to be in condition

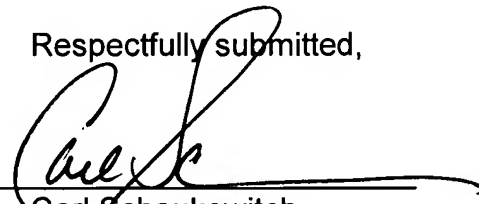
for allowance over the prior art of record. Therefore, this Amendment is believed to be a complete response to the outstanding Office Action. Further, Applicant asserts that there are also reasons other than those set forth above why the pending claims are patentable. Applicant hereby reserves the right to set forth further arguments and remarks supporting the patentability of their claims, including the separate patentability of the dependent claims not explicitly addressed herein, in future papers.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

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